

Foreign Affairs

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The world is interconnected like never before, and U.S. foreign policy must reflect the needs of this interdependence.

Our foreign policy should encourage economic and democratic growth and protect national security. While maintaining our sovereignty, the U.S. supports the efforts of international organizations in peacekeeping and crisis management.

As a partner for peace, the U.S. can assist in negotiations in the troubled regions of the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere. Northern Ohio has a proud immigrant tradition that has enriched our community with diverse and worldly citizens.

We have “sister cities” spanning the globe and have welcomed exchange students from many countries. Our region reaches out to others to strengthen our international partnerships.

Eastern European Affairs

As co-chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus and a member of the Congressional Caucus on Poland and the Congressional Caucus on Central and Eastern Europe, I am very active in helping the emerging democracies.

In addition, the opportunity to create partnerships between our area and Eastern Europe can strengthen both regions culturally and economically. Also, much has been done to recognize those who lost their lives in the fight against oppression by commemorating the Holocaust, the Great Ukrainian Famine in 1933, and the Katyn Massacre. It is important that we remember and honor all those who lost their lives and suffered at the hands of Nazi and Soviet oppression.

China

China's booming economy and vast population present unique economic and security challenges and opportunities for the United States. China is ever-present on the Congressional agenda, whether it's food safety, currency manipulation, and intellectual property violations. As a Member of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, I participate in hearings, briefings, and other activities that highlight the current situation with respect to human rights, rule of law, and transparency.

Middle East

The Middle East conflict is one of the most vexing diplomatic issues in the world. As a superpower, the United States has the opportunity and responsibility to help bring stability to this volatile and strategic region. The U.S. must be an honest broker for peace and revisit a peace process. We must encourage people-to-people contact in the region so we can eliminate hatred and highlight common bonds between neighbors. The pathway to peace can be paved by grass-roots diplomacy in addition to governmental compromise.

I believe that peace in the region is possible if all sides distance themselves from extremism and open themselves to frank dialogue. The United States can help usher in a new era of hope for the region and the world.

Iran

Iran is on the precipice. It is nearing nuclear weapons capabilities while at the same time facing a popular democratic uprising from its own people.

The acquisition of nuclear weapons by Iran would destabilize an already volatile region. Diplomacy, not military action, should be used to deal with Iran. Additional sanctions may be a useful tool in keeping Iran in check, but the U.S. must ensure that the democratic movement is not suffocated. The problem is the oppressive and fanatical Iranian regime and not the overwhelmingly pro-western people of Iran.

For Information on foreign trade and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, please click [here](#) .

Legislation I Have Cosponsored

HR 808: The Department of Peace Act HR 874: Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act

HR 909: Public Diplomacy Resource Centers Act of 2009

HR 2139: Initiating Foreign Assistance Reform Act of 2009

HR 2271: Global Online Freedom Act of 2009

HR 5015: To require a plan for the safe, orderly, and expeditious redeployment of United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan. H Con Res 266: Expressing the sense of Congress that Taiwan should be accorded observer status in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

H Res 66: Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

H Res 130: Expressing support for the appointment of former Senator George Mitchell as Special Envoy for Middle East Peace, and for other purposes.

H Res 200: Calling on the Egyptian Government to respect human rights and freedoms of religion and expression in Egypt.

H Res 266: Celebrating 90 years of United States-Polish diplomatic relations, during which Poland has proven to be an exceptionally strong partner to the United States in advancing freedom around the world. H Res 278: Global Security Priorities Resolution

H Res 435: Celebrating Asian/Pacific-American Heritage.

H Res 519: Expressing appreciation to the people and Government of Canada for their long history of friendship and cooperation with the people and Government of the United States and congratulating Canada as it celebrates "Canada Day";.

H Res 605: Recognizing the continued persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in China on the 11th anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party campaign to suppress the Falun Gong spiritual movement and calling for an immediate end to the campaign to persecute, intimidate, imprison, and torture Falun Gong practitioners.

H Res 630: Condemning the June 28, 2009, coup d'etat in Honduras, calling for the reinstatement of President Jose Manuel Zelaya Rosales, and for other purposes.

H Res 706: Congratulating the people of Lebanon on successfully conducting free, fair, and democratic parliamentary elections on June 7, 2009.

H Res 800: Expressing sympathy for the citizens of the Philippines dealing with Tropical

Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma.

H Res 877: Expressing support for Chinese human rights activists Huang Qi and Tan Zuoren for engaging in peaceful expression as they seek answers and justice for the parents whose children were killed in the Sichuan earthquake of May 12, 2008.

H Res 981: Supporting continued political and economic development in Ukraine. H Res 1246: Expressing sympathy to the people of Poland in the aftermath of the tragic plane crash that killed the country's President, First Lady, and 94 others on April 10, 2010.